

DEVIL MOUNTAIN LIMITED ACCESS TIMBER SALE

October 15, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Anaconda Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 8 air miles northeast of Drummond, Montana.
- Powell County – Section 36, T12N-R11W
- 100% Common Schools Trust

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated sale volume is 4,776 tons (730 MBF) to be sold at the negotiated rate of \$150,539.52 or \$31.52/Ton.
- In addition to the negotiated stumpage value, a fee of \$2.48/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.54 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.
- Approximately 1,000 tons of “other material” (Pulp, Post/Rails) is estimated and would be removed at a fixed rate of \$55/load or \$77/load with pup. This is approximately \$2.00/ton.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains two harvest units totaling 85 acres.
- The sale would salvage timber recently killed by Mountain Pine Beetle. A very minor amount of green timber would be harvested. All lodgepole pine in the harvest unit would be cut and marked Douglas-fir trees would also be removed. Douglas-fir would be the predominant leave tree.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% Tractor

Access & Road Construction:

- Access to the Devil Mountain Limited Access Timber Sale is through private land owned by the Mannix Ranch. The ranch has granted exclusive access to Pyramid Mountain Lumber. Approximately 0.94 miles of new construction would be needed for this sale. All new road would be permanently closed, with a locked gate, upon completion of harvest activities.

Public Involvement:

- Due to the nature of the limited access and opportunity presented, formal scoping was not initiated pursuant to 77-5-201(3)(c). Limited scoping was conducted by notifying the grazing lessee, and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The Mannix Ranch, as the adjoining landowner providing access, favors the project.

Public Comments, Issues and Mitigations:

- **Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species** – Potential impacts associated with species on this list were analyzed. The proposed action has a low risk of impacts and no significant effects are anticipated with any species.

Grizzly Bear

The project area is within mapped occupied grizzly bear habitat (Wittinger et al. 2002). Open road density would not change and sight distances would increase temporarily following the harvest. Douglas-fir leave trees would help reduce sight distances and the young lodgepole pine regeneration would be large enough to provide cover in about 10 years.

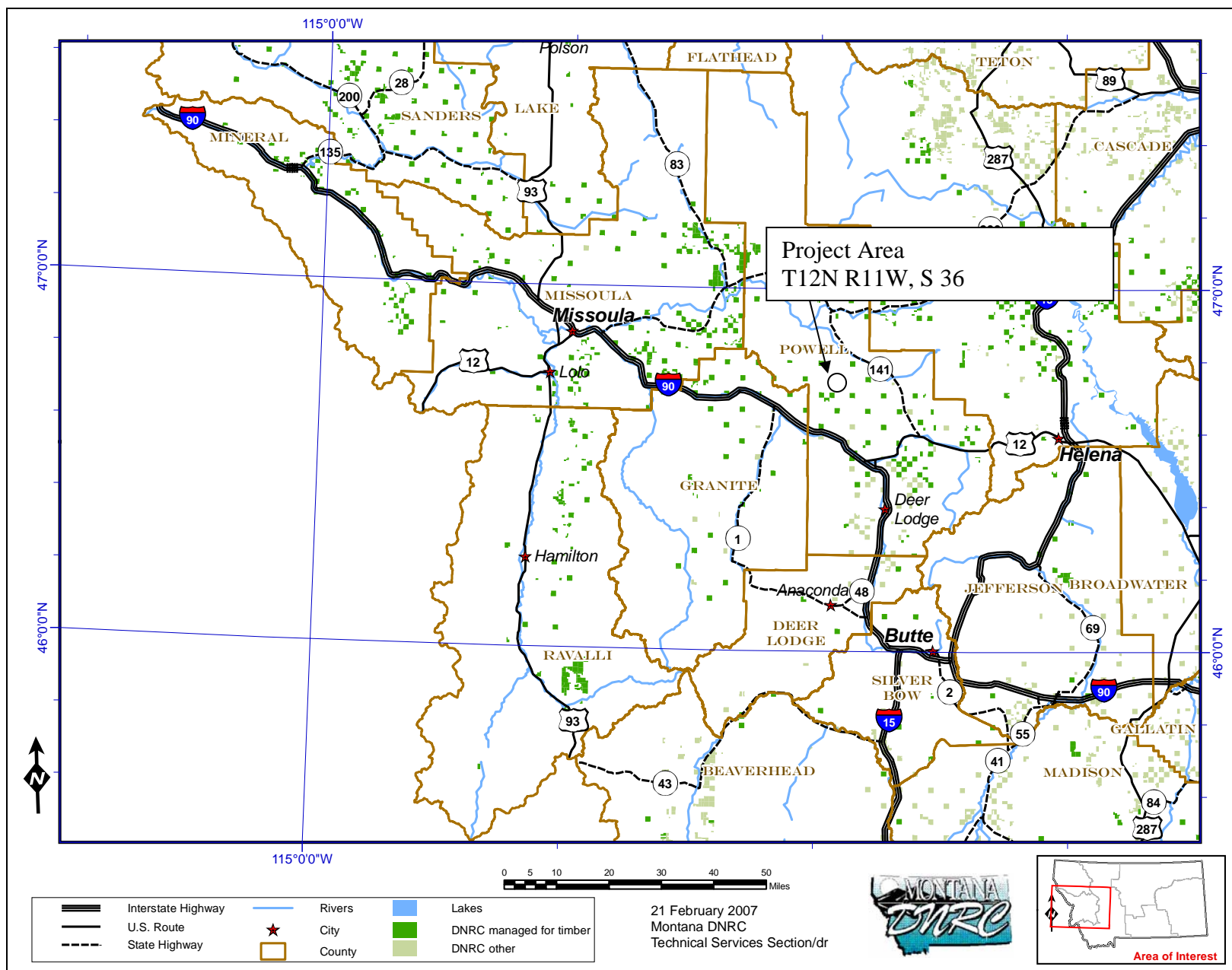
Gray Wolf

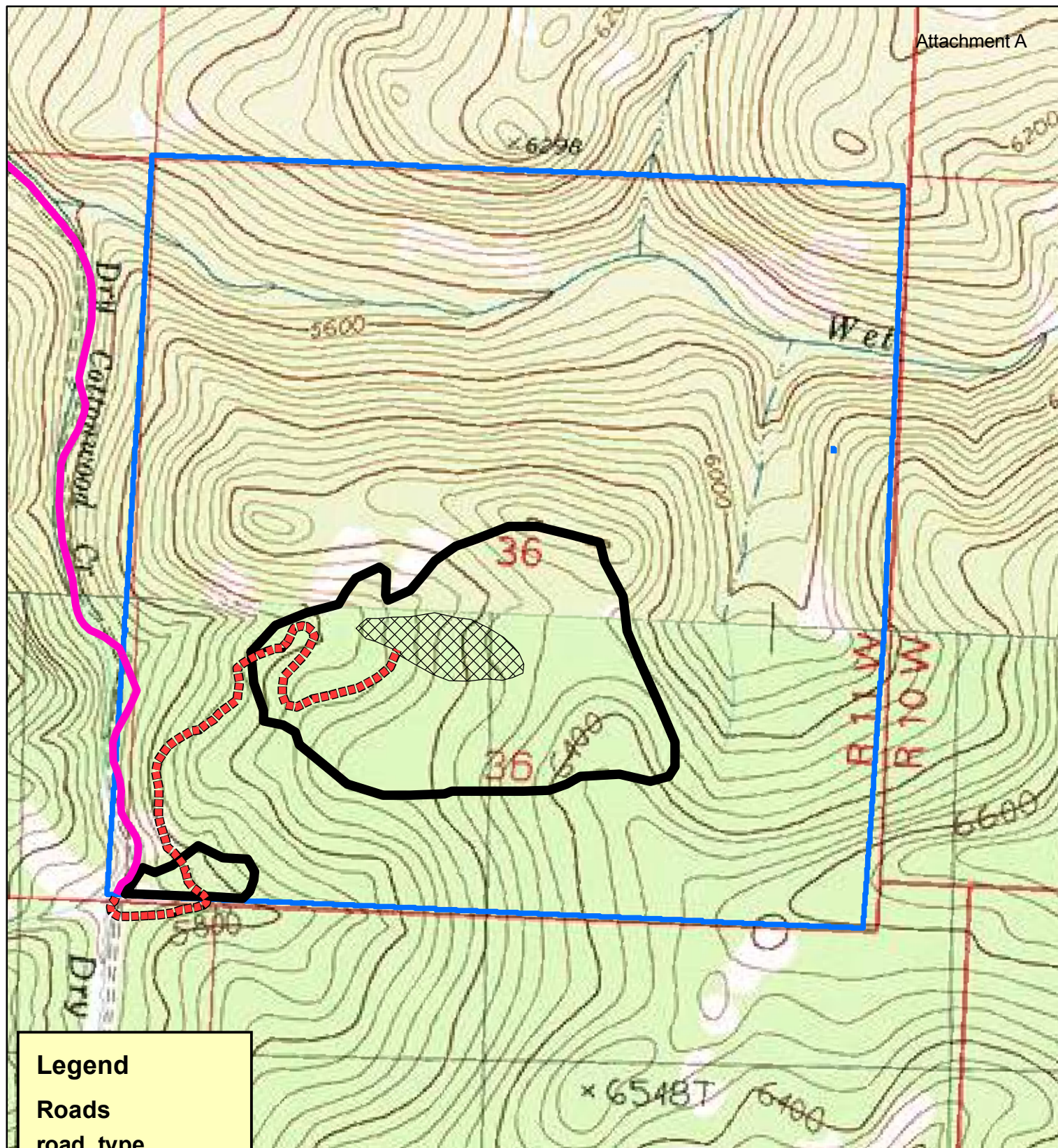
A newly documented pack, with little other information, has been identified in the vicinity (Mike McGrath, SWLO Biologist, pers. comm.). Should wolves be seen within the project area or a den or rendezvous site be located, a DNRC Biologist would be contacted to determine appropriate mitigations. Additionally, all newly constructed roads would be closed post-harvest.

Canada Lynx

DNRC Stand Level Inventory (SLI) identifies 345 acres of Lynx habitat (326 - Other; 10 - Temp Non-habitat; 9 - Mature Foraging). The proposed sale would temporarily remove 80 acres of classified "Other" habitat. The sale would regenerate within 10 years and would provide cover and forage for potential prey species such as snowshoe hares and grouse.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Devil Mountain Limited Access Timber Sale.





Legend

Roads

road_type

— Existing

- - - New

 No harvest Area

 Harvest Units

 State Land

Devil Mountain Limited Access Sale T12N, R11W, Section 36

0 350 700 1,400 2,100 2,800
Feet

